



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 16

Meeting Date: April 24, 2008
Meeting Location: Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana

Council Members Present: Regional Manager Virginia Combs
Larry Marchino
Judy Harper
Gayle Edelen
Aaron Simpson
Judge Joseph Verkamp
Suzanne Draper
Sebrina Martin

Council Members Absent: Judge Robert Aylsworth
Judge David Kelley

Others In Attendance: Judge Timothy Crowley
Steve Cunningham
Susan Blackburn
Shirley Starks
Jara Dillingham (The Villages)
Mike Singleton (Ireland & Luzio)
Dr. John Ireland (Ireland & Luzio)
Cynthia Smith (Youth Service Bureau)
Ann Hecht (Children & Family Services)
Emily Heineke (Samaritan Center)
Lynne Rump (Children & Family Services)
Natalie Kassenbrock (Ireland & Luzio)
Chris Hoehn (Foster Parent)
Bill Curtis (Hillcrest)
Mike Jones (DOULOS Family Services)
Kent Houchins (SW IN Regional Youth)
Barb Tilly (SW IN Regional Youth)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 5:05 p.m. (6:05 p.m. Indianapolis time) by Regional Manager Virginia Combs.

1. Mrs. Combs welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves. The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes of the February 28th meeting had been emailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. On a motion by Judy Harper, seconded by Suzanne Draper, the minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

2. Community Partners Update – Mike Singleton of Ireland Home Based Services distributed three handouts. On the budget sheet for the Community Partners for Child Safety program, the shaded figures are actual amounts spent. The center column shows the monthly budgeted amounts remaining. Actual expenses by county are at the bottom of the page. There was also a Monthly Summary for March 2008 and a Closed Case Summary for January – March 2008.

Dr. John Ireland started a “triage” program to ensure that expenditures stay within the budget. They classify cases as they come in as to urgency. Maximum urgency calls only are dealt with as the budget limit is approached. Dr. Ireland made a motion to classify referrals by urgency and that Ireland Home Based Services will bring the assessment tool that they use to the next meeting for RSC members to review. The motion was seconded by Larry Marchino. The motion passed as proposed.

Dr. Ireland mentioned that Natalie Kassenbrock’s resume was mailed out to all members. Ireland wants to develop a backup coverage situation with two managers to cover the needs of both Region 17 and Region 16 and thinks that approval is needed by the RSC membership. Dr. Ireland made a motion that Mike Singleton and Natalie Kassenbrock back each other up in the Community Partners program management for both Region 16 and Region 17. It was seconded by Suzanne Draper. The motion passed as proposed.

3. IV-B Presentation and Vote – Gini Combs gave a short presentation on the Department of Child Services budgeting. There are three funding sources: County budget, Child Welfare Services, and Title IV B. She mentioned the various types of services provided by each funding stream.

Legislation has been passed and the state will be taking over the budgets in the DCS county funding category effective January 2009. Each county has furnished data about current contracts with providers. The transition will be a huge project for the State of Indiana as well as County staff.

Child Welfare Services funding allows locale-specific service flexibility. Funding is used for prevention programs and is non-child specific. Grant money is given to agencies/providers by County DCS to fund services.

Title IV B funds services for CHINS and their families and for delinquent wards. The IV B funding process is a two-year funding cycle. The State of Indiana sent out Requests for Proposals (RFP) from providers.

Copies of the recommendations of the Region 16 Directors were distributed for review and discussion by the RSC council. There are no new services that have been proposed. All recommended services and providers have been used in the past. The Directors used a scale to score the providers’ proposals.

Judy Harper made a motion that the recommendations proposed by the Directors be accepted and it was seconded by Larry Marchino. All voting members are in favor and the motion is passed as proposed.

4. Practice Reform Update – Susan Blackburn stated that the process consists of teaming, engaging, assessing and intervening. All Family Case Managers have been trained in teaming and engaging the family. The backbone of the entire process is conducting child and family team meetings. Peer coaches have been training staff on how to conduct the team meetings since December, 2007. There were approximately 114 staff members to be trained in Region 16's six counties. Twenty five people are fully trained and facilitating the process. A large number of staff is partially trained. This phase of the training must be accomplished by July 1st.

Steve Cunningham said that all Regional Managers, Directors, and Family Case Managers have to be trained in this process of team meetings. It is a process that works and is a little different from the way things were done in the past. Families learn about the strengths that their family has that they were not previously aware of. The FCM facilitates the meetings. Family members are encouraged to take part and even lead the meetings. Support people outside of the family are also invited to take part. Now with lower caseloads, the FCM's have time to get the family involved in working on their own case plans along with all of the CFTM participants.

5. Miscellaneous:

At the last RSC meeting, we talked about a possible gas voucher program to help clients, especially in more rural areas, who need transportation to get to their service providers. The Community Partners for Child Safety program has initiated that program in some of the rural areas already.

Two voting members on the Regional Service Council have resigned. Lark Buckman retired from the Department of Child Services on March 31st so the council needs to replace a voting director position. Judge David Kelley has also resigned from the Council. Gini asked the Directors to come together as a nominating committee and have a slate for our next meeting for one director and one judge voting members. Chris Hoehn volunteered to be on that committee.

All county DCS offices are in the process of being remodeled with a July 1st deadline. Gibson and Pike Counties are in the middle of that process now. Susan indicated that work in Gibson County DCS started two weeks ago. It involved tearing down walls, installing new carpeting, and cubicles instead of offices for FCMs. The State's plan is for every county office to be similar. Steve stated that work started yesterday in the Pike County office. The projected completion date was going to be eight days, but that has been pushed to a later date.

The Posey County office will be moving to a new location in June. The landlord has not seen the floor plan yet as to how it will look. Knox County will probably stay where they are, but the floor plan has to be changed. The plan is to have all work done by June. Warrick County will have some remodeling changes. Work is to be done by the end of June. They are waiting for some DFR/ACS people to move out of the building before changes can be made. Vanderburgh County will be meeting with Central Office personnel, the landlord, movers, etc. tomorrow to discuss their plans for the building. They want to start work next Monday and have completed by the end of June.

Each county will have an open house after completion and all Council members are invited to attend. We will send out an email with the dates for each county open house.

Gini Combs solicited participation of the Council members with any announcements they may have to share:

Dr. John Ireland stated that Ireland Home Bases Services lost a facility in Petersburg to the city, but they are pursuing another location. Also, a new facility has been opened in Vincennes.

Gini is the Acting Director for Vanderburgh County DCS until a new Director is hired. Shirley Starks and John Schroder are sharing the responsibility also. It can take months to get a Director's position filled. Gini will keep Council members posted on the outcome.

Judge Timothy Crowley indicated that they have had an unprecedented explosion in CHINS cases in Knox County. They had 55 for year 2005, 57 in 2006, 122 in 2007, and 50 to date in 2008. He is the only Judge who handles all of these cases.

Barb Tilly from Southwestern Indiana Regional Youth Village in Vincennes is pleased to announce that they have a new clinical director, Kent Houchins who is attending tonight.

Ann Hecht informed us that Prevent Child Abuse in Knox County is having a program on May 3rd.

Foster parent Chris Hoehn stated that there is a 5K walk planned for May 3rd benefiting Indiana Foster Care and Adoption Association, and the local foster parent support group.

Bill Curtis mentioned that Hillcrest Youth Home has expanded on the independent living services it offers.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: June 26, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at Haub's Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana.

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:25 p.m. (7:25 p.m. Indianapolis time).